

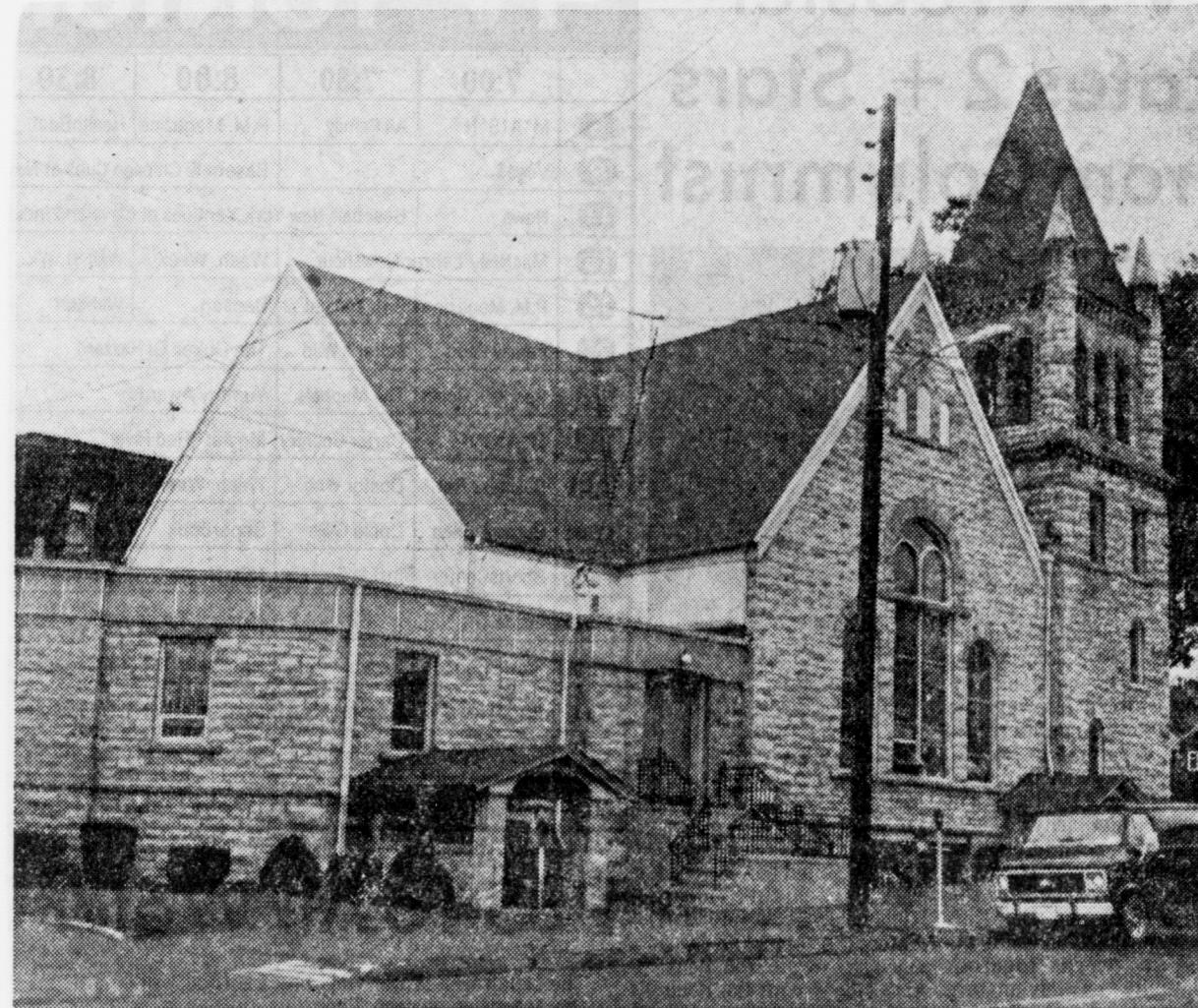
September 19, 1983, p. 1

9 AM - 1 PM - I wrote down pages 4-9 of the September 17 entry in this account of my life; also pages 1-9 of the September 18 entry. As I did so, WVIA has been on and such pleasure it has given me: Three-Cornered Hat (complete), Daphnis et Chloé (complete), the Dvorak Violin Concerto and much more. Now I must go to the NEWS and work on the final production of this week's issue of the paper.

Community News

Scranton Times,

Friday, September 16, 1983 — Page 10



Parishioners of Berean Baptist Church in Carbondale will celebrate a "Day of Joy and Gladness" Sunday in observation of the early repayment of a mortgage taken to rebuild the church structure. The church had been nearly

destroyed by fire 15 years ago. It was rebuilt and rededicated Sept. 13, 1970. In a touch of irony, a brief fire — to burn the mortgage — will highlight the ceremonies. (Times Photo by Ros-Al)

Berean Baptist Church To Burn Mortgage on Rebuilt Structure

By JERRY PALKO

Upvalley Bureau Chief
Carbondale — On a Wednesday 13 years ago, several Carbondale residents, the Berean Baptist faith established a place of worship on a piece of ground on Church Street between St. Rose of Lima and First United Methodist churches. A new building was later erected on the corner of Lincoln Avenue and North Church Street. It was called Berean Baptist Church.

On a Wednesday 15 years ago, a fire originating in a nearby building gutted the inside of the beautiful stone church.

On Sunday, the events of those two Wednesdays of years gone by will be

marked with special ceremonies in a full day of "Joy and Gladness."

No one survives to recall first-hand the events surrounding the establishment

of the church and details of

that occasion must be found

in old records. But most

parishioners — indeed, most

Carbondaleans — remember

that Wednesday afternoon,

Aug. 21, 1968, when a fire

which began in an adjacent bakery spread to engulf the

classical Romanesque Re-

liefert structure whose cor-

nerstone was laid in 1888 and

which was dedicated a year

later.

Despite efforts by city fire-

fighters, the historic church

was all but destroyed. Only

the stone walls remained.

Seven days later parishioners got together and decided to rebuild the church and in Sept. 13, 1970, the task was completed and the new church dedicated.

It had cost \$365,000 and

Sunday at 2:30 p.m. the mortgage which financed the

rebuilding effort and which has been paid off

three years before its due

date will be publicly burnt.

Participating in the mort-

gage burning with the Rev.

Dr. Claude Pullis, pastor,

church officials, and other

parishioners will be the Rev.

Arthur W. Meneely, former

pastor. This will be a public

ceremony and everyone in

the city who participated in

the rebuilding effort may at-

tend. The "Day of Joy and Gladness" will begin at 11 a.m. with a communion service.

At 12:30 p.m., there will be a

catered dinner in the church social rooms.

Dinner tickets are available

from committee members.

The committee in charge of

the mortgage burning and

135th anniversary celebra-

tion is chaired by W. Uriah

Carey and Garfield Thomas.

Not only will the day reaffirm

the faith of the parishioners

whose forefathers

established the place of wor-

ship but it will reaffirm the

commitment to the faith of

the parishioners in rebuilding

their church after tragedy

struck that day a decade and

a half ago.

The News, the Tribune, and the Times all did a story on the BBC activities on the 18th of September. An announcement was also in the Community Calendar in the News of 9/14/83. I was responsible for all of those articles as Publicity Director for the day's events, I did my job well, very well.